REMARKS

This response is filed, as noted above, further to the prosecution history to date, and also is filed in conjunction with Applicant's request to the Examiner for an interview by the undersigned attorney.

Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's impression that the language "a photoreactive crosslinking component able to undergo a reversible reaction upon stimulation with ultraviolet light" was not disclosed in the disclosure as originally filed and that the "photoreactive component" as disclosed does not possess a "crosslinking property".

At page 3, last paragraph of the specification it is disclosed that the photosensitive polymeric network comprises, first, a covalently crosslinked polymer (= the matrix or amorphous network = component 1) and, second, photoreactive groups (= component 2) which may be covalently bound to the amorphous network or may be physically mixed in the amorphous network. That is, the component 2 "photoreactive groups" is the generic term for the photoreactive groups covalently bound to the network (variant 2a) and the photoreactive groups just mixed in the network (variant 2b).

In connection with Figure 1 which shows the principle of the present photosensitive polymeric network, the specification at page 4, 1st paragraph, discloses:

> *Upon radiation with UV these groups* [the photoreactive groups] *are able to give rise to* ***covalent bonds.*** If *the material is deformed and irradiated with light of a suitable wavelength* λ_1, *the initial network is* ***crosslinked further.*** *Due to the* ***additional crosslinking*** *a temporary fixation of the material in deformed shape is obtained (programming). In view of the fact that the* ***photocrosslinking*** *is reversible, the initial*

shape of the material can be recovered by means of irradiation with light of another wavelength λ_2, which disengages the ***additional crosslinking*** *(recovery):" (****emphasis*** *and [explanatory comments] added)*

Section 3 beginning on page 6 further specifies the photoreactive component and also indicates that the terms "photoreactive component" and "photoreactive groups" are used synonymously (see page 6, line 13).

This disclosure clearly indicates that the "photoreactive component" is disclosed to be able to crosslink the polymer upon stimulation with light. Thus, even though the expression "photoreactive crosslinking component" was not recited *ipsis verbis*, there is a clear disclosure in the specification of the crosslinking function of the "photoreactive component".

The Examiner also indicated that the disclosure discloses two (different) types of agents, i.e. the "crosslinking agent" and the "photoreactive component".

This is correct. The expression "crosslinking agent" as set forth on page 5, section 2 of the specification refers to the agent used to permanently cross-link the polymer used for the matrix. For preparation of the polymeric network, the crosslinking agent is mixed with the starting material for the matrix (i.e. monomers or macromonomers) followed by polymerization.

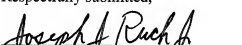
The term "photoreactive component" as set forth on page 6, section 3 of the specification refers to that component capable of forming reversible bonds upon irradiation of light, i.e. component 2 including variant 2a and 2b. As the formation of reversible bonds leads to crosslinking of the photosensitive polymeric network (see page 4, 1st paragraph), it is inaccurate to state that the 'photoreactive component does not possess a "crosslinking property"'.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 - 5, 7, 9 - 13, 18, and 21-29 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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